

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-16 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

NIC-01 SY-10 FBO-01 OPR-02 DRC-01 /122 W

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R 171135Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8195

UNCLAS BERN 3868

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CI, SZ

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO CHILEAN COUP

1. OVER WEEKEND SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE
PROTESTING CHILEAN COUP AND CHARGING US INVOLVEMENT.

2. EVENING SEPTEMBER 14 AT LEAST 800 DEMONSTRATORS
GATHERED OUTSIDE CONGEN ZURICH AFTER RALLY IN CENTER
OF CITY PROTESTING EVENTS IN CHILE. DEMONSTRATORS HAD
BEEN ISSUED PERMIT TO MARCH ON BOTH CHILEAN AND US
CONGENS. AFTER ROCK THROWN THROUGH PLATE-GLASS WINDOW
OF FIRM ON MAIN FLOOR BUILDING HOUSING CONGEN, SUB-
STANTIAL CONTINGENT RIOT POLICE MOVED QUICKLY AND
FORCEFULLY USING TEAR GAS TO MOVE GROUP OUT OF RANGE.
SUBSEQUENTLY, SEVERAL MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND PAINT
EGGS THROWN BUT NO DAMAGE CAUSED. AFTER LESS THAN
HALF HOUR GROUP DISPERSED WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.

3. DEMONSTRATION HELD AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 15 IN BERN CON-
FINED TO DOWNTOWN AREA. MARCHERS DID NOT REQUEST
PERMISSION TO DEMONSTRATE AT EMBASSY. POLICE TOOK
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AROUND EMBASSY BUT DEMONSTRATORS
STAYED ON APPROVED ROUTE. ABOUT 300 DEMONSTRATORS EACH
PARTICIPATED IN RALLIES IN GENEVA AND BASEL.

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4. BOMB EXPLODED EARLY MORNING SEPTEMBER 16 IN ITT

ZURICH OFFICE CAUSING DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT HALF-MILLION SWISS FRANCS, BUT NO INJURIES. ATTACK ASSUMED TO RELATE TO CHILEAN SITUATION. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED BREAKAGE OF WINDOWS AT AMERICAN EXPRESS IN LUCERNE ON SEPTEMBER 15.

5. MEDIA REACTION HAS COVERED THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM BUT CRITICAL COMMENTARIES PREDOMINATE. WHILE EXPRESSING BELIEF THAT MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS WERE PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR COUP, THE PRESS DID NOT INVOLVE US IN CHILEAN EVENTS. ON OTHER HAND, SEVERAL PAPERS NOTED THAT ALLENDE NEVER HAD POPULAR MAJORITY BACKING FOR HIS RADICAL EXPERIMENTS, AND WARNED--WITH CLEAR IMPLICATION FOR EUROPEAN SCENE--THAT HIS FATE DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR SUPPORTERS OF POPULAR FRONT.
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